

## **ABSTRACT**

A method is disclosed for determining how often a client station in a network should send keepalive messages. Based on a measure of network load, a presence server determines a keepalive period, which is a time interval in which a client station needs to send a keepalive message, and the presence server reports this keepalive period to the client station. The client station responsively sends a keepalive message to the presence server within the determined keepalive period.

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